

Minutes of the RHIC/AGS Users Group  
Executive Committee Meeting  
12 September 2003

Present: V. Greene, B. Johnson, S. Kettell, R. Seto, M. Sivertz, S. White-DePace,  
P. Yamin

Telephone: J. Engelage, S. Pate, G. Westfall, G. Young

Absent: D. Hofman, S. Johnson, M. Murray, C. Scarlett, M. Vazquez

Guests: P. Bond, T. Kirk, D. Lowenstein, P. Paul, T. Roser

The meeting convened at 1145. Vicki began by introducing Peter Paul, who addressed the issue of safety. He described the recent accident that prompted a lab-wide laser stand-down. A student's vision was seriously affected, and the extent of long term damage had not yet been determined. [Since September, the student's vision has improved.] He said that laser work has now been restarted, but emphasized that this accident was one of "a slew" of near misses. Any further such incidents will force the DOE to "take action." He urged that users, *including students*, recognize the importance of safety. Tom Kirk said that the "lessons learned" from such incidents should be made available to a large audience.

Richard Seto said that it is difficult to avoid lapses in training for visitors until they are on site for long periods during a run.

Thomas Roser gave a presentation on RHIC performance during the past run. His slides can be found at [http://www.bnl.gov/henp/docs/rhic\\_pgm03/roser.pdf](http://www.bnl.gov/henp/docs/rhic_pgm03/roser.pdf).

**Annual Meeting.**

Brant Johnson said our next Annual Meeting will probably be held some time in May, when it can partially overlap with the NSLS Users meeting. This would increase the likelihood that we will be able to get a high level speaker to address both groups.

**Foreign Visitors.**

Mike Sivertz said that the DOE has circulated a draft order regarding foreign visits and assignments, to which the labs must comment by 30 September. Inasmuch as this will affect all DOE Labs, Mike reported that this issue will be discussed at a joint meeting of DOE laboratory User Administrators and UEC Chairs at BNL on 27-29 October 2003.

**DNP Activities.**

Vicki said that RHIC users should make themselves a presence at APS/DNP meetings. She suggested that we propose nominees to the appropriate Program Committees.

**Thesis Award.**

Steve Kettell reported that the Thesis Award Committee will meet in October to set up a time line for the next awards. The deadline will probably be 4 April

**Video Conferencing.**

Tom Throwe gave a presentation on the video conferencing and web casting technologies that are available at Brookhaven. The text of a report prepared by Tom and Brett Viren may be found at this link: <http://www.rhic.bnl.gov/RCF/UserInfo/Software/VNC/vnc.html>.

The next UEC meeting will be held on 17 October.